



Weekly Wire
February 25, 2013
News from East Asia and Pacific

Australia
Breakthrough Actions

Chief Scientist Ian Chubb suggests five actions that could make Australia a more innovative nation. These include the establishment of an Australian Innovation Council, strengthening access to publicly-funded research expertise and data, encouraging mobility of researchers, harmonizing intellectual property frameworks, and emphasizing the role of SMET.

<http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/2013/02/breakthrough-actions-for-innovation-released/>

Japan

To strengthen CSTP

S&T Minister Taichi Yamamoto presented a draft plan for improving the Council for S&T Policy (CSTP) at a meeting of the Government Competitiveness Council (GCC). CSTP is currently dormant without a full staff. The draft plan suggests that more authority be given to CSTP and that a few CSTP meetings (rather than the current practice of one) be held each month. GCC's non-governmental members additionally proposed expansion of R&D investment and a more flexible budget system for carrying out national strategic projects.

[\(A translation of an article in Nihon Keizai Newspaper – February 19, 2013\)](#)

Charles Stark Draper Prize

Dr. Yoshihisa Okumura, Professor Emeritus of Kanazawa Institute of Technology, was one of five recipients of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) 2013 Charles Stark Draper Prize, for his contribution in developing cellular telephony technologies. He is the first ever Japanese recipient of the prize. The Draper Prize is awarded annually, the 5 recipients this year share a \$500,000 cash award, and the prize recognizes achievements in all engineering disciplines.

<http://www.nae.edu/Activities/Projects/Awards/DraperPrize/67245.aspx>

RIKEN Brain Science Institute Summer Program 2013

The RIKEN Brain Science Institute (BSI) offers a summer program to train advanced students interested in brain function. Around 45 international students are typically accepted each year for the Summer Program, which is highly competitive, with only one out of six or seven applicants being selected.

<http://www.brain.riken.jp/en/summer/>

Korea

R&D for Green Energy

As part of its efforts to become one of the world's top five green energy powerhouses by 2020, Korea intends to double its budget for energy R&D between now and then. Joint research projects and bilateral consultations with other countries will play an important role in the implementation of this plan.

http://www.mke.go.kr/language/eng/news/news_view.jsp?seq=1067&tableNm=E_01_01#

New President of KAIST

Dr. Sung-Mo Kang, Distinguished Chair Professor of Electrical Engineering at UC-Santa Cruz, was appointed as the 15th President of Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). Dr. Kang served as Chancellor of UC-Merced, from 2007 to 2011.

<http://www.kaist.edu/edu.html>

Singapore**Institute of Microelectronics and Stanford University to Jointly Develop “Switch Technology”**

The Institute of Microelectronics and Stanford University are working together to develop nanoelectromechanical systems (NEMS) switch technology to improve energy efficiency in electronic devices such as laptops and smartphones. The use of NEMS switches in digital systems can extend operational time of existing batteries, thereby increasing energy efficiency of such devices.

<http://www.a-star.edu.sg/?TabId=828&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1778>